

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-12 (cancelled).

13. (new) A method for purifying gases to be fed to a fuel cell for operation by removing constituents which are unfavorable to the operation of the fuel cell, the method comprising the acts of:

passing the gas(es) across a filter system, which filter system both separates off particulates and removes constituents in gas or vapor form which have a damaging effect on the operation of the fuel cell;

feeding the gas(es) to the fuel cell on leaving the filter system, wherein the filter system is regenerateable;

monitoring the filter system on the basis of criteria indicating a drop in a filter action and a need for regeneration; and

generating a message when the criteria are reached.

14. (new) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein a pressure difference in the filter system is monitored, and measured values from the monitoring act are transmitted to an evaluation unit and compared with a predetermined limit value, with the message being generated when the predetermined limit value is reached.

15. (new) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein an actuating element causes a control unit to initiate and carry out the regeneration.

16. (new) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein an actuating element causes a control unit to initiate and carry out the regeneration.

17. (new) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein at least one of regeneration of the filter system is carried out while the fuel cell is inoperative.

18. (new) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein at least one of regeneration of the filter system is carried out while the fuel cell is inoperative.

19. (new) The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein at least one of regeneration of the filter system is carried out while the fuel cell is inoperative.

20. (new) An arrangement for purifying gases to be fed to a fuel cell for operation by removing constituents which are unfavorable to the operation of the fuel cell, the arrangement comprising:

a filter system arranged at a location in a gas-carrying passage for feeding the respective gas to the fuel cell, which filter system separates out both particulates and constituents in gas or vapor form that have a damaging effect on operation of the fuel cell;

wherein the filter system is regenerateable and is monitored on a basis of criteria indicating a drop in a filter action and the need for regeneration, with a message being generated when the criteria are reached.

21. (new) The arrangement as claimed in claim 20, further comprising:
a measuring device for measuring a pressure difference of the filter system, the measured values from the measuring device being transmitted to an evaluation unit and compared with a predetermined limit value, with a message being generated when the predetermined limit value is reached.

22. (new) The arrangement as claimed in claim 20, further comprising:
at least one gas sensor for a polluting gas arranged downstream of the filter system, as seen in a flow direction of the gas, the measured values from the at least one gas sensor being transmitted to an evaluation unit and compared with a predetermined limit value, with a message being generated when the predetermined limit value is reached.

23. (new) The arrangement as claimed in claim 21, further comprising:
at least one gas sensor for a polluting gas arranged downstream of the filter system, as seen in a flow direction of the gas, the measured values from the at least one gas sensor being transmitted to the evaluation unit and compared with a predetermined limit value, with a message being generated when the predetermined limit value is reached.

24. (new) The arrangement as claimed in claim 20, wherein the regeneration is triggerable by an actuating element.

25. (new) The arrangement as claimed in claim 21, wherein the regeneration is triggerable by an actuating element.

26. (new) The arrangement as claimed in claim 22, wherein the regeneration is triggerable by an actuating element.

27. (new) The arrangement as claimed in claim 24, further comprising: a control unit, which can be acted on by the actuating element in order to initiate and carry out the regeneration and which determines the sequence of regeneration.

28. (new) The arrangement as claimed in claim 25, further comprising: a control unit, which can be acted on by the actuating element in order to initiate and carry out the regeneration and which determines the sequence of regeneration.

29. (new) The arrangement as claimed in claim 26, further comprising: a control unit, which can be acted on by the actuating element in order to initiate and carry out the regeneration and which determines the sequence of

regeneration.

30. (new) The arrangement as claimed in claim 20, wherein the filter system is arranged in the gas-carrying passage upstream of a gas inlet of a compressor.

31. (new) The arrangement as claimed in claim 27, wherein the filter system is arranged in the gas-carrying passage upstream of a gas inlet of a compressor.

32. (new) The arrangement as claimed in claim 20, wherein the filter system is composed of sections, which are connected in series and the filter function of which is matched to a constituent type to be filtered in the gas.

33. (new) The arrangement as claimed in claim 20, wherein a gas fed to the fuel cell is air, an oxygen content of which reacts with a fuel gas in the fuel cell.

34. (new) The arrangement as claimed in claim 20, wherein the filter system has a first filter for particulates, downstream of which there is a second filter with a substance for taking up and binding pollutants in gas or vapor form.

35. (new) The arrangement as claimed in claim 20, wherein the filter

system comprises a unit in which a dry filter for particulates and a substance for taking up and binding pollutants in gas or vapor form are arranged together.

36. (new) The arrangement as claimed in claim 20, wherein said arrangement is part of a mobile device.